

Amendment No. 1 to SB0468

**Cooper
Signature of Sponsor**

FILED

Date _____

Time _____

Clerk _____

Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND Senate Bill No. 468*

House Bill No. 640

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and by substituting instead the following:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, Chapter 7, Part 10, is amended by adding the following as a new appropriately numbered section:

(a) Health insurance entities, as defined in § 56-7-109, that contract with the state and perform services for the TennCare program or any successor program pursuant to title 71 shall establish reasonable protocols and procedures for reimbursing physicians employed by federally qualified health centers, so long as such protocols and procedures do not violate National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) standards. At a minimum, such protocols and procedures shall:

(1) Subject to approval of a physician credentialing application, permit physician reimbursement for rendered services from the date the physician's completed credentialing application is received for consideration by the health insurance entity; provided, however that a contractual relationship exists between the provider, or the group (or the facility) for whom the physician works; and

(2) Require that any reimbursement paid such physician shall be retroactively recouped or rescinded in the event such physician's credentialing application is denied.

(b) As an alternative to subsection (a), health insurance entities, as defined in §56-7-109, that contract with the state and perform services for the TennCare program or any successor program pursuant to title 71 may establish an expedited credentialing process for reimbursing physicians employed by federally qualified health centers, so long as such process does not violate NCQA standards.

(c) As used in this section, the term "federally qualified health center" means such entities as they are defined in §§1905 and 1861(aa) of the federal Social Security Act.

(d) Nothing in this section shall require reimbursement of physician rendered services that are not benefits or services covered by the health insurance entity.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.